



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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CASTILLEJA GRACILLIMA **SLENDER INDIAN PAINTBRUSH**

Slender Indian Paintbrush is a perennial with slender, erect or ascending, usually unbranched stems, 20-50 cm tall, that often root at the base. The entire-margined leaves are narrowly lance-shaped, and the foliage is glabrous or covered with long, soft hairs. The inflorescence is generally yellow, but may be orange or even red. The oblong flower bracts are entire-margined or may have a single pair of small lobes near the top. The calyx is 15-22 mm long and deeply divided into two lobes at the top that are each divided again into two smaller, pointed lobes. The petals of the flower are united into a tube below that forms a large, galea and three small lobes or teeth opposite it. The entire corolla is 20-30 mm long; the galea is densely hairy and less than half as long as the tube, while the lip is green and ca. 1/5 the length of the galea. Flowering June-August.

Unlike other species of *CASTILLEJA*, stems of *C. GRACILLIMA* often arise singly. The combination of the creeping habit, yellow inflorescence, entire leaves, and galea that is more than 1/2 the length of the corolla tube will usually distinguish this species. A hand lens and technical key may be needed for positive identification.